

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 SCA-01 CU-04 VO-03 DRC-01

EUR-25 /143 W

----- 092578

R 131000Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USINT ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 824

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EAID MR LY

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN-LIBYAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT A-46, B. NOUAKCHOTT 48

1. THE JOINT MAURITANIAN-LIBYAN COMMISSION BEGAN SEPTEMBER 7 THREE DAYS OF TALKS AND TRAVEL IN MAURITANIA "IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING AND BROTHERHOOD." LARG DELEGATION HEADED BY MOHAMED ALI TABOU, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND INCLUDED AMONG ITS FIVE MEMBERS LIBYAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MOHAMED AHMED CHERIF, MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION, AHMED OULD SIDI BABA, WAS THE CHIEF REP FOR GIRM. BEFORE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS IN CAPITAL THE COMMISSION TRAVELED TO ATAR AND CHINGUETTI. CHOICE OF CITIES VISITED PROBABLY PREDICATED ON FACT THAT THE LATTER IS THE RECIPIENT OF LIBYAN PROGRAM TO PROVIDE WATER AND POWER (REFAIR) WHILE ATAR IS REGIONAL CAPITAL AND SITE OF LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER. (FYI LIBYAN INTEREST IN THINGS "CULTURAL" IN ATAR-CHINGUETTI AREA SUFFERED A BLOW WHEN ALI ISSA, DIRECTOR OF THE LIBYAN CULTURAL

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CENTER ATAR, WAS KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT AUG 5 IN

MAURITANIA. END FYI)

2. SEPT 10 GIRM ANNOUNCED THAT "CERTAIN DOCUMENTS" WERE SIGNED WITH THE LIBYAN DELEGATION. THESE INCLUDED CONSULAR CONVENTION ELIMINATING NECESSITY OF VISAS FOR TRAVEL BY MAURITANIAN AND LIBYAN NATIONALS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, FINANCING OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR AN ATAR-CHINGUETTI ROAD, AND CONSTRUCTION ARABIC SECONDARY SCHOOL AND INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER ISLAMIC STUDIES IN NOUAKCHOTT. NO PRICE TAGS WERE CITED FOR ABOVE PROJECTS.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN MAY 1972. THE AID PROJECTS ARE THOSE DESCRIBED TO THE AMBASSADOR JAN 26 BY FORMIN (REF B). SIMILARLY, THE INTENTION TO SIGN A CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE LAST COMMISSION MEETING IN TRIPOLI DEC 1972. WHILE THERE IS NOTHING REALLY NEW IN THE COMMISSION'S COMMUNIQUE, IT DOES DEMONSTRATE THE VISIBILITY OF LIBYAN INTERESTS IN MAURITANIA WHILE THE CONSULAR CONVENTION WILL FURTHER SIMPLIFY INCREASING CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

MURPHY

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